WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for processing a message in a network computing system including a facsimile transmission comprised of a recipient contact address and message content, wherein the message content includes at least one of message text and attached files, comprising:

managing the facsimile transmission as a fax job in a first computing system;

transferring the message content to a second computing system;

launching, with the second computing system, at least one application program to convert the message content to at least one image in a file format;

transferring, with the second computing system, the converted message content in the file format to the first computing system; and

transferring, with the first computing system, the message content in the file format to a communication port for transmittal to the recipient contact address.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transferring, with the first computing system, a job number assigned to the fax job to the second computing system; and

requesting, with the second computing system, the message content for the job number, wherein the first computing system transfers the message content in response to receiving the request from the second computing system.

3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising:

maintaining, with the first computing system, a job table including fax job records identified by job number; and

changing, with first computing system, state fields in the fax job records to manage the workflow of the fax jobs between the first computing system, second computing systems, and communication port.

1   4.   The method of claim 2, wherein the message including the facsimile

2   transmission further includes sender information for the sender of the fax job, wherein

3   the second computing system generates the content of message text and each

4   attachment into images in the file format; further comprising:

5   using, with the second computing system, the sender information to access fax

6   cover page information for the fax job;

7   generating a cover page image in the file format from the fax cover page

8   information if there is fax cover page information for the sender of the fax job; and

9   transmitting, with the second computing system, the converted fax cover page

10   image to the first computing system.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the file format comprises an image

2   file format, and wherein the message content is converted to one or more images in

3   the file format.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein for each attachment file received from

2   the first computing system, the second computing system further performing:

3   determining one of multiple application programs capable of opening the

4   attachment file; and

5   using the determined application program to convert the content of the

6   attachment file to one or more images in the file format, wherein all the images in the

7   file format comprising the at least one converted attachment file are transferred to the

8   first computing system.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, further comprising converting, with the second

2   computing system, the message text to at least one image in the file format, wherein

3   the images comprising the converted attachment files are arranged in a file in the file

4   format according to an order in which they were attached to the message and follow

5   one image comprising the converted message text.

1   8.   The method of claim 6, further comprising maintaining, with the

2   second computing system, multiple application programs open to concurrently

3   convert the content of different attachment files to images in the file format.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the different attachment files

2   concurrently converted to images in the file format are part of different fax jobs.

1   10.   The method of claim 6, further comprising using, with the second

2   computing system, one application program to concurrently convert the content of

3   different attachment files associated with the application program to images in the file

4   format.

1   11.   A network computing system for processing a message including a

2   facsimile transmission comprised of a recipient contact address and message content,

3   wherein the message content includes at least one of message text and attached files

4   comprising:

5   (a) a first computing system comprising a first processor and a first memory

6   coupled to the first processor;

7   (b) a second computing system comprising a second processor and a second

8   memory coupled to the second processor;

9   (c) a communication port in communication with the first computing system;

10   (d) first program logic residing in the first memory, wherein the first program

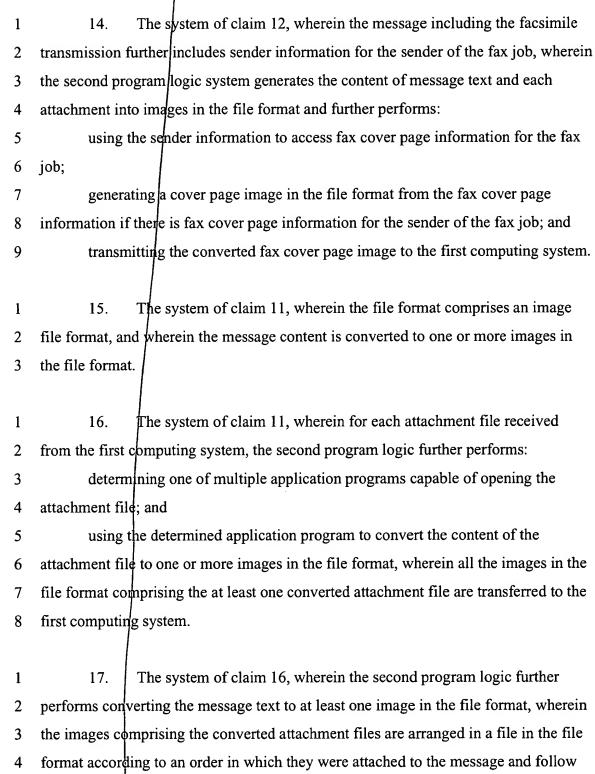11   logic, when read and executed by the first processor performs:

12   (i) managing the facsimile transmission as a fax job;

13   (ii) transferring the message content to a second computing system;

14   and

15   (iii) transferring the message content received from the second

16   computing system to a communication port for transmittal to the recipient

17   contact address; and

18   (e) second program logic residing in the second memory, wherein the second

19   program logic, when read and executed by the second processor performs:

20   (i) launching at least one application program to convert the message

21   content to at least one image in a file format; and

22   (ii) transferring the converted message content in the file format to the

23   first computing system;

1   12.   The system of claim 11, wherein the first program logic further

2   performs transferring a job number assigned to the fax job to the second computing

3   system and wherein the second program logic further performs requesting the

4   message content for the job number, wherein the first computing system transfers the

5   message content in response to receiving the request from the second computing

6   system.

1   13.   The system of claim 12, wherein the first program logic further

2   performs:

3   maintaining a job table including fax job records identified by job number;

4   and

5   changing state fields in the fax job records to manage the workflow of the fax

6   jobs between the first computing system, second computing systems, and
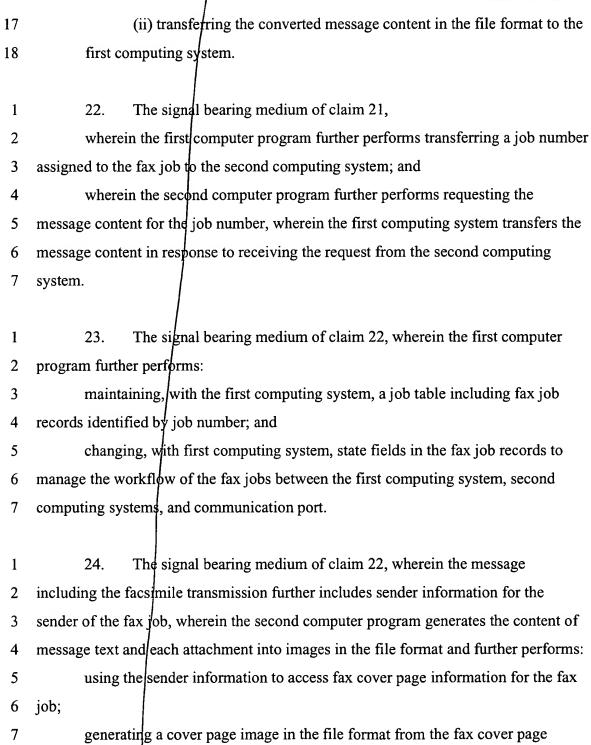
7   communication port.

1   14.   The system of claim 12, wherein the message including the facsimile

2   transmission further includes sender information for the sender of the fax job, wherein

3   the second program logic system generates the content of message text and each

4   attachment into images in the file format and further performs:

5   using the sender information to access fax cover page information for the fax

6   job;

7   generating a cover page image in the file format from the fax cover page

8   information if there is fax cover page information for the sender of the fax job; and

9   transmitting the converted fax cover page image to the first computing system.

1   15.   The system of claim 11, wherein the file format comprises an image

2   file format, and wherein the message content is converted to one or more images in

3   the file format.

1   16.   The system of claim 11, wherein for each attachment file received

2   from the first computing system, the second program logic further performs:

3   determining one of multiple application programs capable of opening the

4   attachment file; and

5   using the determined application program to convert the content of the

6   attachment file to one or more images in the file format, wherein all the images in the

7   file format comprising the at least one converted attachment file are transferred to the

8   first computing system.

1   17.   The system of claim 16, wherein the second program logic further

2   performs converting the message text to at least one image in the file format, wherein

3   the images comprising the converted attachment files are arranged in a file in the file

4   format according to an order in which they were attached to the message and follow

5   one image comprising the converted message text.

1   18.   The system of claim 16, wherein the second program logic further

2   comprises maintaining multiple application programs open to concurrently convert

3   the content of different attachment files to images in the file format.

1   19.   The system of claim 18, wherein the different attachment files

2   concurrently converted to images in the file format are part of different fax jobs.

1   20.   The system of claim 16, wherein the second program logic further

2   performs using one application program to concurrently convert the content of

3   different attachment files associated with the application program to images in the file

4   format.

1   21.   A signal-bearing medium containing at least one first and second

2   computer programs for processing a message in a network computing system

3   including a facsimile transmission comprised of a recipient contact address and

4   message content, wherein the message content includes at least one of message text

5   and attached files, wherein the first program and second program are executed by a

6   first computer and a second computer, respectively, comprising:

7   wherein the first program is capable of causing the first computer to perform:

8   (i) managing the facsimile transmission as a fax job;

9   (ii) transferring the message content to a second computer;

10   (iii) transferring the message content received from the second

11   computer to a communication port for transmittal to the recipient contact

12   address; and

13   wherein the second program is capable of causing the second computer to

14   perform:

15   (i) launching at least one application program to convert the message

16   content to at least one image in a file format; and

17   (ii) transferring the converted message content in the file format to the

18   first computing system.

1   22.   The signal bearing medium of claim 21,

2   wherein the first computer program further performs transferring a job number

3   assigned to the fax job to the second computing system; and

4   wherein the second computer program further performs requesting the

5   message content for the job number, wherein the first computing system transfers the

6   message content in response to receiving the request from the second computing

7   system.

1   23.   The signal bearing medium of claim 22, wherein the first computer

2   program further performs:

3   maintaining, with the first computing system, a job table including fax job

4   records identified by job number; and

5   changing, with first computing system, state fields in the fax job records to

6   manage the workflow of the fax jobs between the first computing system, second

7   computing systems, and communication port.

1   24.   The signal bearing medium of claim 22, wherein the message

2   including the facsimile transmission further includes sender information for the

3   sender of the fax job, wherein the second computer program generates the content of

4   message text and each attachment into images in the file format and further performs:

5   using the sender information to access fax cover page information for the fax

6   job;

7   generating a cover page image in the file format from the fax cover page

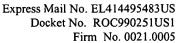8   information if there is fax cover page information for the sender of the fax job;

9   transmitting the converted fax cover page image to the first computing system.

1   25.   The signal bearing medium of claim 21, wherein the file format

2   comprises an image file format, and wherein the message content is converted to one

3   or more images in the file format.

1   26.   The signal bearing medium of claim 21, wherein for each attachment

2   file received from the first computing system, the second computer program further

3   performs:

4   determining one of multiple application programs capable of opening the

5   attachment file; and

6   using the determined application program to convert the content of the

7   attachment file to one or more images in the file format, wherein all the images in the

8   file format comprising the at least one converted attachment file are transferred to the

9   first computing system.

1   27.   The signal bearing medium of claim 26, wherein the second computer

2   program further performs converting the message text to at least one image in the file

3   format, wherein the images comprising the converted attachment files are arranged in

4   a file in the file format according to an order in which they were attached to the

5   message and follow one image comprising the converted message text.

1   28.   The signal bearing medium of claim 26, wherein the second computer

2   program further performs maintaining multiple application programs open to

3   concurrently convert the content of different attachment files to images in the file

4   format.

1   29.   The signal bearing medium of claim 28, wherein the different

2   attachment files concurrently converted to images in the file format are part of

3   different fax jobs.

1   30.   The signal bearing medium of claim 28, wherein the second computer

2   program further performs using one application program to concurrently convert the

3   content of different attachment files associated with the application program to

4   images in the file format.